

August 12, 2021

EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall at 6:30 p.m. by President Davis who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon a roll call, in attendance were Trustees Bacon, Chase, Barr, Dye, Rademacher and Palmer. Clerk Smith and Engineer Mark Hurley were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION – VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM – GOSLING CZUBAK

Engineer Mark Hurley passed out system maps that illustrate the 4 wells and the storage tank. He described the last Water Model Update completed in 2015. This should be updated every 5 years. He then reviewed the most recent Water System Sanitary Survey (2-21-2019) from EGLE. He passed out a list of common questions from the EGLE website and described adequate rates to provide for planned asset improvement and maintenance. He provided several examples of asset management and how a plan must include rates that would finance such plans. There were questions regarding the response to the Sanitary Survey. Cross connections (sprinkler systems) were reviewed. Possible reasons for needing a new well were discussed. An updated General Plan would provide the information necessary. The purpose of a VFD was described as a slow power ramp as opposed to a surge of power.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRESENTATION – None.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to approve the agenda. There was unanimous approval upon a voice vote. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – Dye read letters regarding the use of golf carts on Village streets from Sherry Slessman and Frank Skrocki. A letter regarding sidewalks from Roxanne Shetler was also read.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER RATES – Rademacher described the meter replacement plan that the Water Committee has been working on. He felt that some further information is needed before a vote is considered by the Council.

ORDINANCE #137 – SEPTIC INSPECTIONS AT TIME OF SALE – There was discussion of needed language in the introduction of the ordinance and the language describing enforcement officials. Simplification of language will be completed. There was discussion of the Evaluation Standards as requested by County Health. There was consensus that the Ordinance, with changes discussed, would be added to the Regular Meeting agenda for a vote.

VOLUNTEER PROCESS – There was discussion of a process for community projects that might be staffed by volunteers and the possible need for a budget line item. There was consensus that the Community Project Submission Form, the Volunteer Activity Waiver, and the narrative process be added to the Regular Meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE ON WILCE ST. (New Neighborhood) – **Motion by Barr, support by Bacon to approve the street closure as requested. UPON A UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL, MOTION PASSED.**

GOLF CART USE ON VILLAGE STREETS – Dye reviewed the sample ordinances she has provided and feels a resolution may be sufficient. There was discussion of whether an ordinance is needed to allow ORVs on Village streets. There was consensus that a Resolution for Golf Carts being allowed on Village streets will be on the next Regular Meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Meg Walton commented on the Water System Rates and the need for public input. Steve Lewis commented on golf carts and the Point-of-Sale Ordinance. Doug Slessman thanked the Council for action on golf carts.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS – Barr commented on notifying the Sheriff Department if they are identified as enforcement for Village ordinances. Bacon would like to have Gosling Czubak review quotes for water pump at Well #1. Davis will ask for a quote for an updated Water Master Plan from the Village engineers.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.

Derith Smith, Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the August 24, 2021, Regular Council meeting.